



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

OFFICIAL STATEMENT
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Statement by Senator Borris L. Miles on HB 1139

Intellectual Disability on Death Penalty Court Cases

"The death penalty is reserved for the worst in our state, but some cases require closer attention. Since 2003, the Texas Legislature has discussed several ways to address intellectual disability in death penalty cases to reflect the US Supreme Court orders in 2002 and 2017.

"The Texas Legislature has discussed intellectual disability over several sessions, and this session is no different. I joined the army of advocates, medical professionals, district attorneys and judicial powerhouses to carry this bill forward in the Senate. As the legislation moved, I worked with my fellow members in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and passed a version of the bill to continue the discussion in a conference committee where we could craft language that would respect the US Supreme Court rulings. Unfortunately, the leadership would not allow HB 1139 to move forward, dooming the bill.

"This journey is not over. I plan on working in the interim to ensure we pass legislation that respects the high courts' decisions and ensures that justice is served."

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